

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 /027 W

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R 260832Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5102

UNCLAS TOKYO 16872

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PLYWOOD ASSN. INVITATION TO JAPANESE OFFICIALS

REF. A. TOKYO 16150 B. STATE 63994

1. PLEASE INFORM TOM FAST, AMERICAN PLYWOOD ASSN. (TEL. 200-272-2283) THAT ABE ADVISED EMBASSY NOV. 25 THAT UNDER JAPANESE CIVIL SERVICES REGS. HE AND YAMAI UNABLE TO ACCEPT REF A INVITATION.

2. ACCORDING TO ABE, IN ORDER FOR MIN. OF AG. AND FORESTRY (MAF) OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT INVITATION FOR PURPOSE DESCRIBED PARA. 1 REFA. A, INVATION WOULD HAVE TO BE TENDERED BY USG OR JOINTLY BY USG AND APA TO MAF REQUESTING IT TO DESIGNATE "APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING SOFTWOOD PLYWOOD STANDARDS," RATHER THAN NAMING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES FIRST HAND EXPOSURE TO US PLYWOOD TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS WOULD BE OF VALUE TO OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH DRAFTING NEW JAPANESE CODE, AND/IF/STATE/COMMERCE AGREE THAT THIS IS A WORTHWHILE PROJECT, SOME FORM OF JOINT INVITATION MIGHT BE EXPLORED WITH APA. ABE TOLD EMBASSY THAT MAF COULD NOT GUARANTEE IN ADVANCE WHAT IT WOULD APPROVE, HOWEVER, HIS SUPERIORS DID NOT INDICATE THAT USG FUNDING ESSENTIAL AS LONG AS USG CLEARLY JOINED IN INVITATION. A POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE CO-SPONSORSHIP BY PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL COMMISSION (PNRC), WHICH IS FEDERALLY FUNDED AND UNDER WHOSE AEGIS SEPT. LUMBER AND PLYWOOD TRADE MISSION OF ORTHWEST BUSINESS LEADERS AND

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GOVERNORS VISITED JAPAN (SEE REF. B). A PNRC INVITATION

WOULD HAV TO STRONGLY EMPHASIZE PNRC'S "FEDERAL"
USG CHARACTER.

4. BOTH APA AND MAF HAVE INDICATED TO EMBASSY THAT IF
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT, THEY AGREEABLE TO
SCHEDULING VISIT FOR ONE WEEK PERIOD BETWEEN MID-JAN. AND
END FEBRUARY 1976.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT (FYI): FROM LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS OF
NEW PLYWOOD STANDARDS WITH MAF OFFICIALS DURING SEPTEMBER
TRADE MISSION, APA REPS. WELL AWARE OF THE MANY DOMESTIC
CONCERNS AND PRESSURES AFFECTING DECISIONS ON NEW
JAPANESE PLYWOOD CODE. APA CLEARLY SEES THIS VISIT AS
A CHANCE TO DISPELL ANY GENUINE RESERVATIONS JAPANESE
TECHNICIANS MAY HAVE RE U.S. STANDARDS AND APA INSPECTION
PROCEDURES. EMBASSY BELIVES APA DOES NOT HAVE
UNREALISTIC EXPECTATION THAT INVITATION WILL IMMEDIATELY LEAD
TO ADOPTION INTACT OF U.S.STANDARDS OR TO ACCEPTANCE OF APA
CERTIFICATION OF U.S.
PRODUCTS WITHOUT FURTHER INSPECTION IN JAPAN.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WOOD PRODUCTS, INVITATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO16872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750412-0762
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975119/aaaaahyh.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 16150, 75 STATE 63994
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 DEC 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PLYWOOD ASSN. INVITATION TO JAPANESE OFFICIALS
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, JA, US, AMERICAN PLYWOOD ASSN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006